

REMARKS

Claims 1-19, 21-24, 26-27, 29-32, 34-35, 38-44, 46-52, 54-57, 59-60, 62-65, 67-68, 71-77, 79-85, 87-91, 93, 95-101, 103-106, and 108 are pending in this application after this amendment. Previously added claims 20, 25, 28, 33, 36, 37, 45, 53, 58, 61, 66, 69, 78, 86, 92, 94, 102, 107, and 109-115 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter included therein. In light of the amendments and remarks included herein, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections.

By this amendment, Applicants have amended the claims to more appropriately recite the present invention. Specifically, by this amendment, Applicants have rewritten objected dependent claims to include the all of the elements of the base claim. For the Examiner's convenience, a marked-up version of the amendments made to the claims are set forth in Appendix A. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that all of pending claims include allowable subject matter. It is respectfully submitted that these amendments are being made without conceding the propriety of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to timely advance prosecution of the present application.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 20, 22-28, 30-37, 39-45, 47-53, 55-61, 63-70, 72-78, 80-86, 88-94, 96-102, and 104-115 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Parulski et al.* (USP 5,696,850) in view of *Amano et al.* (USP 5,937,218). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for allowing claims 1-19 and further for indicating that claims 21, 29, 38, 46, 54, 62, 71, 79, 87, 95, and 103 include allowable subject matter.

Based upon the amendments made herein, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in proper form for allowance.

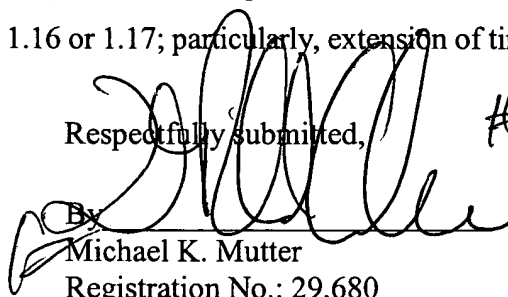
Conclusion

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Catherine M. Voisinet (Reg. No. 52,327) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: January 4, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Michael K. Mutter, is written over the typed name and address. To the right of the signature, the handwritten number "#40,439" is visible.

By Michael K. Mutter

Registration No.: 29,680

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